

May 14, 2002

First Deputy Minister L.D. Ryabev
Ministry of the Russian Federation for Atomic Energy
Staromonetnyy, per. 26
Moscow, Russia 109180

Dear Minister Ryabev:

I was very pleased to meet you and to have the opportunity to discuss our mutual interest in technical and scientific collaboration and other issues during the April 14-16, 2002, Lab Directors' meeting in Santa Fe, NM.

Lab-to-lab interactions between the Russian nuclear weapons institutes and the U.S. nuclear weapons laboratories that began some ten years ago have proven to be mutually beneficial. Continuing technical and scientific collaboration also provides a working forum that will materially contribute to the new U.S./Russian strategic relationship as we work to address areas of mutual interest and concern.

The enclosed list of topics for technical and scientific collaboration provides a basis for discussions between our technical experts. These discussions can proceed immediately to enable our technical experts to develop, solidify, and implement proposals for continuing technical and scientific collaboration. This enclosed list can be expanded in the future to include additional topics.

As I stated at the Directors' meeting in Santa Fe, I am personally committed to ensure that technical and scientific collaboration proceed without delay. Therefore, Dr. Jerry M. Freedman has been appointed as the National Nuclear Security Agency working point of contact (POC) for this effort. Please provide a POC for MinAtom who will work with Dr. Freedman to ensure timely implementation of lab-to-lab technical and scientific collaboration. As a further personal commitment to ensure progress in collaboration, I would like to propose that we consider holding periodic review meetings.

The Bishops Lodge meeting was very productive and represents another positive step in building a new strategic relationship between our countries. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

John Gordon
Administrator

Enclosure